

OFFICE OF COLLECTION AND DISSEMINATION

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17 December 1946

MEMORANDUM TO: Acting Secretary, N.I.A.
(Through: Chief, ICAPS)

Subject: Security Advisory Board

1. By informal reference from the Acting Secretary, NIA, the comments of the Security Branch of this Office were invited upon paragraph 5a of the attached draft memorandum by the SWNCC Secretariat which discusses the need of the SAB Secretariat for additional personnel and the advisability of (a) transferring the activities of SAB to NIA jurisdiction or (b) establishing the SAB as a separate agency by Executive Order.

2. The following comments are offered only in conjunction with those SAB functions which could be usefully performed by CIG; they are not applicable to the security procedures relative to the employment of persons by government agencies which fall more properly within the purview of the Department of Justice and of the newly created Presidential Commission which is to recommend legislation to keep disloyal and subversive persons out of the Civil Service.

3. Pertinent functions of the Assistant Director for Security (to be discharged upon activation of his Office) which would seem to parallel or overlap those of the SAB are:

"a. As authorized by the National Intelligence Authority, formulates and disseminates coordinated Federal security policies and procedures pertaining to the safeguarding of classified information and matter of the departments and agencies of the United States Government in the interests of the national security.

b. Determines adequacy of security controls in the non-participating Federal agencies and, from a security standpoint, passes on their eligibility to receive CIG intelligence information and intelligence."

4. The revised terms of reference of the SAB, as set forth in SWNCC 252/4 which were approved by that committee by informal action on 4 November 1946, are:

SECRET

SECRET

"a. Formulating policies and procedures relating to the declassification of documents originating in non-military agencies and departments.

b. Establishing security requirements and procedures for clearance of civilian officials to receive classified material.

c. Establishing standards for the conversion of security regulations for civilian agencies from a war-time to a peace-time basis, including Top Secret procedures.

d. Conducting surveys of security measures affecting administrative efficiency and physical security or affecting adversely the security of classified information.

e. Preparing studies and recommendations on matters referred to it by SWACC.

f. Coordinating with other Federal agencies in developing security training programs and other procedures which are designed to promote security of classified information throughout Federal agencies."

5. In the event that SAB were dissolved, it would be natural for government agencies to turn to some existing interdepartmental intelligence agency for advice and assistance in connection with security matters. This is a service which CIG should be prepared to render and which it could furnish with only slight expansion of its planned personnel, since it must perform many of the above functions for itself and on behalf of the participating agencies of NIA. Such functions include those lettered from a through d in paragraph 4 above.

6. Function a could obviously be expanded to include references relating to security matters from all departments and agencies. Function f is a very useful one which would seem to fit logically into the terms of reference of CIG (see paragraphs 3d and 10 of the President's letter of 22 January 1946).

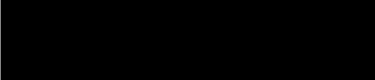
7. It is understood, however, that function b above has been interpreted in the various agencies and within SAB itself to include security clearances to be effected prior to employment of personnel for government service. This is a function which CIG would not be prepared to assume as that field belongs more properly to the Department of Justice and will be surveyed by the new commission (see paragraph 2 above). Function b of SAB, as written, is quite similar to function b (see paragraph 3b) of the proposed CIG Office of Security.

8. In the light of the foregoing discussion and of views previously expressed by the Bureau of the Budget to the effect that the SAB

SECRET

functions should be placed under the NIA, it is recommended that the SMNCC Secretariat be informally notified by the NIA Secretariat of the prospective ability of CIG to take over current SAB functions, to include the files and presently assigned personnel of the SAB Secretariat.

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Captain, U. S. N.
Assistant Director for
Collection and Dissemination

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